

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Note to Assignment Editors: Transportation, and if desired camping gear, will be provided if requested in advance. Trip Itinerary is attached.

Angel Island State Park Welcomes a New Generation – FamCampers from Beacon Center

ANGEL ISLAND -- A new generation of campers will have chance to experience camping and outdoor activities at Angel Island State Park, as youth and chaperones from the San Francisco Beacon Center --Chinatown, San Francisco, join California State Parks' FamCamp® program March 29 to 31, 2005

Departing Tuesday from Pier 41 in San Francisco, the group will travel to Angel Island State Park by ferry. Wednesday they plan to tour the Immigration Station on Angel Island. On Thursday, they'll return after touring Alcatraz Island, hosted by the National Park Service.

The San Francisco Beacon Initiative is a public-private partnership that promotes youth and family centers in public schools. The goal of the initiative is to offer opportunities, services and activities that promote the healthy development of children, youth, families and communities. Eight Beacon Centers housed in public schools across the city provide youth development opportunities before and after-school, on weekends and in summer. The centers now serve nearly 7,000 youth and adults, every year. The Chinatown Beacon Center, located at Gordon J. Lau Elementary School, has been strengthening its community one person at a time by unleashing the power of youth and improving the lives of families.

The California State Parks Office of Community Involvement created FamCamp® to introduce camping to families and groups that would otherwise not have the opportunity. Along with strengthening family bonds through outdoor recreation, this program helps foster self-respect, community building and environmental stewardship. The program has 13 fully equipped trailers with camp gear for 25 located in State Parks throughout California.

The Angel Island FamCamp® program is a public-private collaboration between California State Parks, the National Park Service and the California State Parks Foundation.

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